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Toby Baker, *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

June 30, 2020

Mr. Ken McQueen
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75270-210

Subject: Sulfur Dioxide Clean Data Determination Request for Portions of Freestone, Anderson, and Titus Counties in Texas

Dear Administrator McQueen:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is requesting a clean data determination by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for the portions of Freestone and Anderson Counties and the portion of Titus County designated nonattainment for the 2010 primary sulfur dioxide (SO₂) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). The coal fired power plants located in these two SO₂ nonattainment areas ceased operations in early 2018. Further, the owner of both the Big Brown power plant in Freestone County and the Monticello power plant in Titus County surrendered the air permit authorizations for these facilities. These shutdowns eliminate the only significant SO₂ emission sources in the nonattainment areas. The resulting decrease of ambient SO₂ concentrations supports that these areas are attaining the SO₂ NAAQS and will continue to do so.

In fact, the Fairfield FM 2570 Ward Ranch monitor, located approximately three miles southwest of the Big Brown plant, has a preliminary SO₂ design value of 41 parts per billion (ppb) for 2019 (the first full year of data after the shut down). The Cookville FM 4855 monitor, located approximately 12 miles to the east of the Monticello plant and source-oriented to the still-operational Welsh power plant, has a preliminary 2019 design value of 28 ppb.

Thank you for your consideration of this supplemental information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Donna F. Huff, Air Quality Division Director, at 512-239-6628 or by email at donna.huff@tceq.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toby Baker".

Toby Baker
Executive Director